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DISASTER ASSISTANCE CENTER TO OPEN IN REDDING

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – An assistance center will open Monday (March 6) in Redding to help Shasta County residents who suffered damage in the December-January flooding, state and federal disaster recovery officials announced.

The center at 2420 Breslauer Way will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, and will be closed on Sundays.

Affected homeowners, renters and business owners should register for federal and state assistance first online at www.fema.gov or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA** (**3362**) or (TTY) **1-800-462-7585** between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Those who had damage should contact their insurance companies before registering with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The center will be staffed by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and other state agencies, FEMA, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to answer questions and provide information about disaster recovery and reducing damage in future disasters.

OES coordinates overall state agency response to major disasters in support of local government. The office is responsible for ensuring California's readiness to respond to and recover from natural, manmade and war-caused emergencies and for assisting local governments in their emergency preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery efforts.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.